

Richbourg Presides Over DSMC Change of Command

Passes DSMC Colors to Navy Rear Adm. Leonard Vincent, College's 14th Commandant

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Navy Rear Adm. Leonard "Lenn" Vincent assumed duties as the 14th Commandant of the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) in a change of command ceremony Dec. 30, 1997, at DSMC's main Fort Belvoir, Va., campus. The admiral, a native of Tulsa, Okla., recently arrived from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he was Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet.¹ Vincent succeeds Army Brig. Gen. Richard A. Black, who retired at the conclusion of the ceremony.

First, An Official Farewell

Guest speaker Donna Richbourg, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform, began her remarks by acknowledging Black's many accomplishments during his 30-year military career, particularly his tenure as DSMC's Commandant from March 1996 to December 1997.

"Today brings a close to a distinguished military career of more than 30 years," said Richbourg. "Dick, you have left your mark. You have set DSMC on a path to ensure the College will continue to meet the challenging needs of the workforce. Your ideas and your energy have brought about remarkable changes in all facets of the acquisition, education, and training program."

She went on to say that one of Black's significant contributions is his ability to

embrace continuous change and incorporate it into the school's mission — to educate and train acquisition professionals and prepare senior leaders.

The Right Man for the Job

Welcoming Vincent to the DSMC team, Richbourg said his new assignment is a testimonial to his past achievements as a leader in the acquisition community.

DONNA RICHBOURG, ACTING DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION REFORM, PASSES THE DSMC COLORS TO NAVY REAR ADM. LEONARD "LENN" VINCENT, ON DEC. 30, 1997, AT DSMC'S MAIN FORT BELVOIR, VA., CAMPUS. VINCENT BECOMES THE COLLEGE'S 14TH COMMANDANT.

"Admiral Vincent comes to DSMC with excellent credentials to meet the future challenges of the College," she told those attending. "We couldn't be more pleased to have 'Lenn' Vincent to serve as our Commandant of DSMC during this very critical time.

"He has been known to embrace change in our acquisition reform initiatives as the Commander of the Defense Contract Management Command, and transformed that Command into a customer-focused organization." He did so, she noted, by instilling a sense of pride in his people. They wanted to be the best that they could be and provide the best service that they could to their customers.



Barnett is a Navy Journalist 2nd Class in the Video Services Department. Johnson is Managing Editor, Program Manager Magazine, Visual Arts and Press Department. Both are assigned to the Division of College Administration and Services, DSMC.

"He is a people person," Richbourg continued, "and he will do all he can for a top-notch organization like DSMC. I can assure you that the DSMC team will be in good hands with Admiral Vincent as their leader."

From the New Commandant

Acknowledging that he was honored by his selection as DSMC Commandant, Vincent told those attending that he is pleased to carry on with the course that Black set for the future of the organization.

Said Vincent, "DSMC has a proud heritage and has played a key role in DoD acquisition for more than a quarter of a century. It took strong support from everyone at the College to achieve this outstanding recognition."

The admiral, a graduate of Southeastern State Teachers College (Okla.) and The George Washington University, also talked about the future of DoD as it continues to do "more with less." Said Vincent, "It's no secret that DoD has been reducing its size to accommodate the challenges of the 21st century. The reality is that we're going to be challenged to be more innovative and resourceful than ever before."

"I believe we've only seen the tip of the iceberg. Our greatest challenge is to remain flexible enough to rapidly accommodate this changing environment."

The admiral also focused on the importance of continuing to seek new solutions, like the College's use of distance learning, to meet the ever-changing educational needs of students.

"This higher level of performance I'm talking about doesn't just happen. It takes good people working hard even when they think no one is watching," Vincent said.

In 1971 the school graduated nearly 60 students. This year more than 9,000 acquisition professionals will receive DSMC diplomas. Providing a quality education to this many students requires a staff committed to helping students meet the

diverse goals of the acquisition workforce - 190,000 strong, worldwide.

"This college is full of strong leaders and excellent teachers," according to Vincent. "With your continued commitment, the future has never been brighter. Maintaining this momentum is my challenge."

Heeding his wife, Shirley's advice to "be brief, be bright, and be gone," Vincent closed by stating that he pledged his support to maintain the Defense Systems Management College as the institution of distinction for acquisition education. "I'm eager to work with the heads of each school in the consortium," he assured those attending, "and help the Defense Acquisition University meet the diverse educational goals of the acquisition workforce."

Memories, Accolades, A Few Tears...

Black's official retirement ceremony and award presentation were followed by remarks from Army Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition.²

A fellow cadet with Black at West Point Military Academy in the early 1960s, Kern delivered a career sketch, full of anecdotes and humorous events from Black's 30-year Army career. At the conclusion of his remarks, he focused on General Black, the father, the husband, and according to Kern, the man who always "had a smile on his face, who could keep everybody else smiling, who could learn, who could teach, but most of all, contributed to our country, to his family, and to the well-being of all of us."

"Dick, from General Reimer [Army Chief of Staff], we thank you from the Army, from the bottom of our hearts for all that you have done. I've been proud to serve with you...."

General Black's Turn to Speak

Black and his family spoke emotionally about their faith, family, his Army career, and the new challenges he faces as a civilian.

Addressing Vincent, Black told him that the College and the acquisition workforce needed his mature leadership "and any sailing skills that you may bring along to sail in these winds of change...I know that you, with the support of the staff and the faculty, will meet the challenges and make the most of every opportunity. In fact, you, in the process, will probably cause the College to rise to new heights; you'll be able to look further into the future to better serve the education and training needs of the acquisition workforce."

Sharing E-mails [see next page] he received from two West Point classmates away from home at Christmas —one classmate helping to build a stable economy in Russia, and the other involved in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia Herzegovina — he spoke of Army leadership, and his pride in those who serve.

"Our Army Chief of Staff," Black said, "has coined a watchword for the Army leadership as a reminder of our purpose — that soldiers are our credentials. The way they act, the way they conduct themselves is a direct reflection; in fact, they are our credentials."

"In a similar way," he continued, "our military forces serve as ambassadors of America and they speak volumes by their presence around the globe. We should all be very proud of them. I know I am."

Concluding, Black had this to say of his associates at the College as well as throughout the professional acquisition workforce: "It has been a great privilege to serve as the 13th DSMC Commandant. It has been an equal privilege to serve in the United States Army. I believe there is no better way to serve God and this great country than to stand shoulder to shoulder with the quality professionals with whom I have worked."

ENDNOTES

1. Admiral Vincent's biography appears on the inside back cover of this issue.
2. See September-October 1997 issue of Program Manager, p. 39.

Editor's Note: The following text represents two E-mails General Black received from fellow West Point classmates, far from home at Christmas. Black shared them at his Dec. 30, 1997, retirement ceremony, as a reminder that freedom, indeed, is not free.

"Greetings to everyone from the frozen reaches of Russia. As the holidays approach I look around me here and realize just how fortunate we are to have been born in the U.S. Russians struggle every day of their lives just to survive. Fortunately, they now struggle in a much more open society. But after spending 24 years protecting America by training to kill Russians, it's very satisfying to be here protecting America by helping to build a stable Russian economy.

These people are hungry for information about the West. For the first time in decades, they have access to a flood of information. Many of the younger people speak excellent English, having studied it for 10 or more years in the school system. They are warm and friendly, but often rude by our standards. They're trying very hard to establish a democratic system in a few years of these complex times. If we find them often less than successful, we should remember we've been working at it for over 200 years."



"Holiday greetings from the Balkans. As you may recall, Christmas '95 was in Zagreb, Croatia. This year I'm a few miles south-east of Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. Once again I am part of the NATO military force supporting the fragile peace in this war-ravaged land. This trip I command 312 soldiers, airmen, and Marines from the U.S., Germany, Italy, and France that make up the stabilization force, Combined Joint Civil Military Task Force. We are the civil affairs operators whose job it is to secure the peace through active interface with the multi-national military force and the international agencies and organizations, the governments of the ethnic entities, their people, and their leadership.

We're involved in everything from helping ordinary citizens find funds to put a roof on their war-damaged homes to reestablishing electric grids, gas transmission lines, telephone exchanges, television broadcast capabilities, and so forth. We work with the militaries of 37 nations, several embassies, a multitude of non-government and private volunteer organizations, and hundreds of citizens of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

It's difficult to be away from home at this time of year as I truly miss my family and friends, but the challenges of building a lasting peace in a nation whose citizens truly want peace is the essence of the message we celebrate at this time of year. While we all share the dream of peace around the world, I and my comrades, citizens, soldiers, every one, are actively involved each day in making that dream a reality for thousands of our fellow human beings, regardless of who they are, where they came from, or what they believe. This is a noble enterprise and one to which we have all dedicated ourselves for the eight and one-half months we will have been here when we finally return home in January.

Bless all of our soldiers as you celebrate this season of peace, for they are the peacemakers and they spread the blessings of freedom, tranquility, and prosperity among those who have only dreamt of them. Have a wonderful holiday season and a great New Year. Blessed are the peacemakers."



APMC 97-3 Graduates First to Receive Diplomas From DoD's New Defense Acquisition Executive

WHEN THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY HIMSELF SHOWS UP TO AWARD YOUR DIPLOMA, IT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL, AND REQUIRES A PRETTY BIG DIPLOMA. ADVANCED PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COURSE (APMC) 97-3 CLASS PRESIDENT, NAVY CAPT. LAWRENCE "LEE" DICK ACCEPTS AN OVERSIZE, SYMBOLIC DIPLOMA, ATTESTING TO THE GRADUATION OF OVER 300 STUDENTS FROM THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT COLLEGE'S APMC 97-3 OFFERING. THE CLASS GRADUATED ON DECEMBER 12, 1997, IN A CEREMONY CONDUCTED AT ESSAYONS THEATER, FORT BELVOIR, VA. PICTURED FROM LEFT: LEE; DR. JACQUES S. GANSLER, USD(A&T); ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, FORMER DSMC COMMANDANT.



Photo by Richard Mattox